

MOTOGP PORTUGAL 2026 RACE PREVIEW

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2026 | ROUND 21 OF 22

Autódromo Internacional do Algarve | Portimão, Portugal

Sprint, Grand Prix, title scenarios and the full session schedule

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TWO PREMIER-CLASS STARTS

Saturday Sprint: 10:00 ET / 07:00 PT / 15:00 GMT / 16:00 CET. Sunday Grand Prix: 08:00 ET / 05:00 PT / 13:00 GMT / 14:00 CET.

ROUND 21

WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

Autódromo Internacional do Algarve | November 20-22

21 / 22	+60	74
CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND	MÁRQUEZ OVER MARTÍN	POINTS LEFT BEFORE FRIDAY

THE TITLE CAN BE SETTLED ON SATURDAY

Marc Márquez reaches Portimão on 431 points. Jorge Martín is 60 behind and Marco Bezzecchi 74 behind. A Sprint victory guarantees Márquez the crown; there are other routes through the points table on page 12.

KEY MOTOGP SESSION	ET	PT	GMT	CET
Friday Practice	10:00	07:00	15:00	16:00
Saturday Sprint	**10:00**	**07:00**	**15:00**	**16:00**
Sunday Grand Prix	**08:00**	**05:00**	**13:00**	**14:00**

ONE TRACK, THREE DIFFERENT TESTS

Friday Practice sets the direct path to Q2. Saturday is about the launch and a 12-lap sprint. On Sunday, the same qualifying grid starts a 25-lap race where repeatable pace matters more.

Schedule is shown in Eastern, Pacific, Portugal/UK and Central European time. Portimão uses GMT on these dates.

MotoGP | Portugal event page Portugal | Published weekend timetable

NOV 20

FRIDAY PRACTICE

November 20 | Scheduled start times

CLASS	SESSION	ET	PT	GMT	CET
Moto3	Free Practice 1	04:00	01:00	09:00	10:00
Moto2	Free Practice 1	04:50	01:50	09:50	10:50
MotoGP	Free Practice 1	05:45	02:45	10:45	11:45
Moto3	Practice	08:15	05:15	13:15	14:15
Moto2	Practice	09:05	06:05	14:05	15:05
MotoGP	**Practice**	**10:00**	**07:00**	**15:00**	**16:00**

10:45 GMT | MOTOGP FREE PRACTICE 1

Use the opening session to compare riders on repeated laps and to see who finds braking stability quickly. The first headline time of the weekend says little without the run length and tyre context.

15:00 GMT | THE SESSION THAT SETS Q2

The fastest ten in MotoGP Practice advance directly to Q2. Look at the cutoff as well as P1: a late yellow flag or missed clean lap can turn a quick rider into a Q1 starter on Saturday.

Track time is GMT. All displayed starts fall on Friday in the four listed zones.



NOV 21

QUALIFYING & SPRINT

Saturday, November 21 | Scheduled start times

CLASS	SESSION	ET	PT	GMT	CET
Moto3	Free Practice 2	03:40	00:40	08:40	09:40
Moto2	Free Practice 2	04:25	01:25	09:25	10:25
MotoGP	Free Practice 2	05:10	02:10	10:10	11:10
MotoGP	**Qualifying 1**	**05:50**	**02:50**	**10:50**	**11:50**
MotoGP	**Qualifying 2**	**06:15**	**03:15**	**11:15**	**12:15**
Moto3	Qualifying 1	07:45	04:45	12:45	13:45
Moto3	Qualifying 2	08:10	05:10	13:10	14:10
Moto2	Qualifying 1	08:40	05:40	13:40	14:40
Moto2	Qualifying 2	09:05	06:05	14:05	15:05
MotoGP	**Sprint • 12 laps**	**10:00**	**07:00**	**15:00**	**16:00**

THE TWO TIMES TO SAVE

MotoGP Q2 begins at 06:15 ET / 03:15 PT. The Sprint starts at 10:00 ET / 07:00 PT, with 12 laps scheduled. Qualifying sets the grid for both premier-class starts.

THE FIRST TITLE CHECK

If Márquez outscores Martín by two points or more in the Sprint, the championship is settled on Grand Prix countback or by an uncatchable lead. Page 12 shows the positions that do it.



NOV 22

SUNDAY RACE DAY

November 22 | Three Grand Prix races and MotoGP warm-up

CLASS	SESSION	ET	PT	GMT	CET
MotoGP	Warm-up	04:40	01:40	09:40	10:40
Moto2	Grand Prix • 21 laps	06:15	03:15	11:15	12:15
MotoGP	**Grand Prix • 25 laps**	**08:00**	**05:00**	**13:00**	**14:00**
Moto3	Grand Prix • 19 laps	09:30	06:30	14:30	15:30

THE ORDER MATTERS

Moto2 goes first at 11:15 GMT, followed by the MotoGP Grand Prix at 13:00 GMT. Moto3 closes the programme at 14:30 GMT. The MotoGP warm-up is scheduled for 09:40-09:50 GMT.

21
MOTO2 LAPS

25
MOTOGP LAPS

19
MOTO3 LAPS

WHAT TO CHECK AFTER WARM-UP

Use warm-up to see how the race-day conditions compare with Saturday. The qualifying grid remains the reference; check official notices for any penalties or changes.

CIRCUIT

A LAP OF PORTIMÃO

Autódromo Internacional do Algarve | Track facts and viewing cues

4.59 km	15	9 / 6	969 m
LAP LENGTH	CORNERS	RIGHT / LEFT	MAIN STRAIGHT

01 | FRONT STRAIGHT TO TURN 1

The straight ends at a downhill entry. Watch for riders who complete a pass without running deep: a clean exit can be more valuable than briefly being ahead on the brakes.

02 | CRESTS AND COMPRESSION

Portimão changes elevation repeatedly. A lap can look quick in one sector and still lose time at the next crest. When comparing riders, look for three or four laps with the same rhythm rather than one perfect split.

03 | EXIT SPEED ONTO THE STRAIGHT

A rider who stays close through the final corner can use the run to the line to put pressure on the next braking zone. Watch the gap at the exit and then again before Turn 1.

MotoGP race distance: 114.8 km across 25 laps. The 12-lap Sprint gives riders less time to recover lost track position.

FORMAT

HOW THE GRID IS SET

MotoGP qualification | Friday Practice, Q1 and Q2

FRIDAY | TOP TEN DIRECTLY TO Q2

MotoGP Practice runs at 15:00 GMT. The ten fastest riders advance directly to Q2 under the scheduled format. The remaining riders go to Q1. Saturday morning free practice gives teams one more check on setup before qualifying.

SATURDAY | TWO RIDERS ADVANCE FROM Q1

Q1 runs 10:50-11:05 GMT. Its two fastest riders join the Friday ten in Q2 at 11:15-11:30 GMT. Q2 sets the first twelve grid positions, subject to official penalties.

ONE QUALIFYING GRID, TWO STARTS

The grid is used for the Sprint and the Grand Prix. A good start can still rearrange the order before Turn 1. Check who can hold a line under pressure before making too much of a rider’s first qualifying position.

WATCH THE Q2 CUTOFF

A rider forced through Q1 has an extra session to manage. If a leading contender misses the top two there, reassess the Sprint lean before assuming they can recover through traffic.



12 LAPS

THE 12-LAP SPRINT

Saturday 21 | 15:00 GMT | 10:00 ET

12	12	9
LAPS	POINTS FOR P1	POINTS FOR P2

EDITORIAL SPRINT LEAN | MARC MÁRQUEZ

Márquez won the Qatar Sprint and qualified on the front row there. If he qualifies near the front in Portimão, he is the early pick. The title incentive is direct: winning the Sprint settles the championship.

PROJECTED ORDER	RIDER	BASIS
P1	**Marc Márquez**	**Qatar Sprint winner**
P2	Marco Bezzecchi	2025 Portugal Sprint podium
P3	Pedro Acosta	2025 Portugal Sprint runner-up

THE MAIN CHALLENGER TO THE ORDER

Fabio Di Giannantonio finished second in Qatar. If he qualifies ahead of Acosta or the Aprilias, his track position raises his podium case. Watch the launch and the gap out of the last corner before the first run to Turn 1.

Early dry-weather projection. Reassess after qualifying, grid notices and the latest track conditions.



25 LAPS

THE 25-LAP GRAND PRIX

Sunday 22 | 13:00 GMT | 08:00 ET

25	114.8 km	25
LAPS	RACE DISTANCE	POINTS FOR P1

EDITORIAL GRAND PRIX LEAN | MARCO BEZZECCHI

Bezzecchi won the 2025 Portimão Grand Prix and the latest Sunday race in Qatar. The Sunday lean stays with him if Friday shows repeatable pace and qualifying puts him on the first two rows.

PROJECTED ORDER	RIDER	BASIS
P1	**Marco Bezzecchi**	**Portimão 2025 and Qatar 2026**
P2	Marc Márquez	Qatar runner-up; points leader
P3	Pedro Acosta	Portimão 2025 Sunday podium

THE RACE MAY CHANGE AFTER THE OPENING LAPS

Look at the first clear stretch after the field spreads. Is the leader gaining without a tow? Can the rider behind keep pace through several sectors without using the front tyre harder? The closing laps will show whether that early advantage lasts.

Márquez remains a strong win alternative if he starts ahead and shows better long-run pace. Rain or a grid change lowers confidence in this order.

TOP 10

MOTOGP STANDINGS

Riders' championship after Qatar | Round 20 of 22

POS	RIDER	BIKE	PTS	GAP	GP WINS
1	**Marc Márquez**	**Ducati**	**431**	**—**	**7**
2	**Jorge Martín**	**Aprilia**	**371**	**60**	**1**
3	**Marco Bezzecchi**	**Aprilia**	**357**	**74**	**6**
4	Pedro Acosta	KTM	309	122	1
5	Ai Ogura	Aprilia	294	137	1
6	Fabio Di Giannantonio	Ducati	282	149	1
7	Raúl Fernández	Aprilia	258	173	1
8	Álex Márquez	Ducati	197	234	1
9	Francesco Bagnaia	Ducati	173	258	0
10	Enea Bastianini	KTM	147	284	0

THREE RIDERS REMAIN MATHEMATICALLY ALIVE

Márquez leads Martín by 60 and Bezzecchi by 74. Bezzecchi needs every remaining point and no more for Márquez to tie him. If those results occur, Bezzecchi reaches eight Grand Prix wins against Márquez's seven.

THE APRILIAS ARE ALSO RACING FOR SECOND

Only 14 points separate Martín and Bezzecchi. A swing in the Saturday Sprint can make the Sunday podium matter for second even if the title has already been decided.

TITLE MATH

MÁRQUEZ'S MATCH POINT

Full-points scenarios | Grand Prix wins settle the countback

60	62	+2
GAP BEFORE SPRINT	POINTS LEFT AFTER SPRINT	NET POINTS TO CLINCH

MÁRQUEZ FINISH	POINTS	MARTÍN RESULT THAT CLINCHES IT
P1	**12**	**Any result**
P2	9	P3 or lower
P3	7	P5 or lower
P4	6	P6 or lower
P5	5	P7 or lower
P6	4	P8 or lower
P7	3	P9 or lower
P8	2	P10 or lower
P9	1	Cannot clinch in the Sprint

WHY 62 CAN BE ENOUGH

If Martín is exactly 62 behind, he can only tie on points. Márquez has seven Grand Prix wins; Martín has one and can reach at most three. Sprint wins do not break the tie. If Márquez scores the required two-point gain, Bezzecchi is also out of reach.

If the title is still open after Saturday, 37 points remain after Sunday's Portimão race. A lead of 38 or more over every rival clinches outright; a lead of 37 can suffice on countback. P10 or lower scores zero in a full Sprint.



ROUND 20

WHAT QATAR CHANGED

Lusail, November 7-8 | The last completed round

SUNDAY GRAND PRIX

P	RIDER	GAP	PTS
1	**Marco Bezzecchi**	**Winner**	**25**
2	Marc Márquez	+3.083 s	20
3	Raúl Fernández	+3.614 s	16
4	Ai Ogura	+4.885 s	13

SATURDAY SPRINT

P	RIDER	GAP	PTS
1	**Marc Márquez**	**Winner**	**12**
2	Fabio Di Giannantonio	+0.862 s	9
3	Jorge Martín	+1.519 s	7

32
MÁRQUEZ WEEKEND PTS

16
MARTÍN WEEKEND PTS

25
BEZZECCHI WEEKEND PTS

MÁRQUEZ BUILT THE GAP; BEZZECCHI KEPT IT OPEN

Márquez won the Sprint and took second on Sunday. Martín took Sprint third and Grand Prix seventh. Bezzecchi scored no Sprint points but won the Grand Prix to stay mathematically alive on the only remaining path: a perfect finish to the season.

TRACKHOUSE BELONGS IN THE DISCUSSION

Raúl Fernández and Ai Ogura finished third and fourth on Sunday. A strong race from either can change who has clean air at Portimão, even with the spotlight on the three championship contenders.



RIDER FOCUS

MÁRQUEZ & MARTÍN

Different priorities for the championship leader and his closest rival

QATAR CHECK	MARC MÁRQUEZ	JORGE MARTÍN
Qualifying	P2	P11
Sprint	P1	P3
Grand Prix	P2	P7
Weekend points	**32**	**16**

MÁRQUEZ | PUT THE TITLE WITHIN ONE RESULT

The Sprint offers a clear route: win it, or finish far enough ahead of Martín on points. If Márquez starts near the front, he can make the rest of the field react to his pace rather than trying to recover positions before the title calculation even matters.

MARTÍN | THE GRID IS HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY

Martín climbed from eleventh on the Qatar grid to third in the Sprint and finished seventh on Sunday. A better starting position in Portugal would reduce the traffic he has to clear. Watch how his single-lap pace compares with the front runners once Practice and Q2 are complete.

Martín enters 14 points ahead of teammate Bezzecchi. His Sprint and race also matter for second place in the standings.



RIDER FOCUS

BEZZECCHI & THE THREATS

Recent pace, circuit results and the riders who can split the contenders

MARCO BEZZECCHI | THE SUNDAY BENCHMARK

The 2025 Portimão Grand Prix winner arrives after winning in Qatar. He has six Sunday wins this season and can still finish second overall. His clearest weekend opportunity is a front-row start that lets him set his own race pace.

PEDRO ACOSTA | PORTIMÃO TRACK FORM

Acosta was second in the 2025 Sprint and third in the Grand Prix. He sits fourth in the 2026 standings on 309 points. If he can stay with the leaders without using the front tyre too hard, a podium remains a realistic editorial call.

FABIO DI GIANNANTONIO | THE SPRINT ALTERNATIVE

Second in the Qatar Sprint makes Di Giannantonio worth watching if he qualifies on the front two rows again. A clean launch can let him dictate the early pace, especially if the title rivals start in different parts of the grid.

RAÚL FERNÁNDEZ AND AI OGURA | WATCH THE START

Their Qatar Grand Prix results were third and fourth. A strong qualifying lap in Portugal can put either rider between the favourites and make the opening laps harder to read.

TRACK FORM

THE 2025 REFERENCE

Same circuit | Different winners on Saturday and Sunday

POS	SPRINT	GRAND PRIX
1	**Álex Márquez**	**Marco Bezzecchi**
2	Pedro Acosta	Álex Márquez
3	Marco Bezzecchi	Pedro Acosta

SATURDAY | A TIGHT THREE-RIDER FIGHT

Álex Márquez beat Pedro Acosta by about a tenth of a second. Polesitter Marco Bezzecchi finished third, within roughly half a second of the win. The result is useful evidence that a fast qualifying lap does not by itself settle a short race here.

SUNDAY | BEZZECCHI CONVERTED THE START

Bezzecchi led all 25 laps, with Álex Márquez second and Acosta third. The change in order supports treating Sprint and Grand Prix form separately. Acosta’s two podiums make him worth watching in both races.

These are 2025 results. Current entry status, weather, track conditions and qualifying still need to be checked before applying them to 2026.

21 LAPS

MOTO2: MATCH POINT

Sunday 11:15 GMT / 06:15 ET | 21 laps

POS	RIDER	POINTS	GAP
1	**Manuel González**	**286.5**	**—**
2	**Izan Guevara**	**273**	**13.5**
3	Iván Ortolá	219.5	67
4	Daniel Holgado	215	71.5

GONZÁLEZ NEEDS TO OUTSCORE GUEVARA BY 12

González leads by 13.5 after finishing sixth in Qatar, where Guevara retired. A gain of 12 makes the lead at least 25.5 with 25 available in Valencia. A gain of 11 leaves it at 24.5.

GONZÁLEZ FINISH	GUEVARA FINISH	NET GAIN
P1	**P4 or lower**	**12 or more**
P2	P8 or lower	12 or more
P3	P12 or lower	12 or more

QATAR FORM | HOLGADO, ORTOLÁ, ESCRIG

Holgado won in Lusail ahead of Ortolá and Álex Escrig. Watch whether the title contenders can stay ahead of riders with strong late-race pace while making the most of their points positions.

19 LAPS

MOTO3: THE RUNNER-UP RACE

Sunday 14:30 GMT / 09:30 ET | 19 laps

POS	RIDER	POINTS	GAP
1	**Máximo Quiles**	**392**	**—**
2	**David Almansa**	**253**	**139**
3	**Álvaro Carpe**	**216**	**176**
4	Brian Uriarte	207	185

QUILES HAS THE TITLE; ALMANSA HAS A 37-POINT EDGE FOR SECOND

Máximo Quiles is already world champion on 392 points. David Almansa leads Álvaro Carpe by 37 points in the race for second. If Almansa leaves Portugal at least 26 ahead of every rider below him, no one can catch him in Valencia.

LUSAIL PODIUM | ALMANSA, FERNÁNDEZ, QUILES

Almansa led from start to finish to take his fourth win of 2026. Adrián Fernández held off Quiles for second. In Portimão, watch whether the leader can break the tow or if the group stays close enough to use the straight on the last lap.

Moto3 is the final race of the day, after the MotoGP Grand Prix. Recheck the published race-day schedule if the weekend has a delay.

CHECKLIST

THE WEEKEND WATCHLIST

What to check before using the early forecast

01 | WATCH THE TOP-TEN CUTOFF ON FRIDAY

A front-runner who misses direct Q2 has another session to manage. Compare the cutoff with longer runs: good repeated laps can support the Sunday forecast even if one qualifying simulation is messy.

02 | UPDATE THE SPRINT LEAN AFTER Q2

Márquez is the early Sprint pick if he starts near the front. If Bezzecchi or Di Giannantonio has cleaner track position, raise their chances in the 12-lap race. Use the official final grid, including penalties.

03 | USE LONG-RUN PACE FOR SUNDAY

Bezzecchi is the early Sunday lean. A clear long-run advantage for Márquez would change the order. If conditions change between sessions or the track is wet, lower confidence in a projection built on dry form.

04 | CONFIRM RIDER STATUS AND THE POST-SPRINT TABLE

Ducati reported that Francesco Bagnaia underwent surgery after the Qatar Sprint. A return date was not confirmed at this preview’s cutoff. Check the official entry list and rider updates, then use the classified Sprint result for Sunday’s title calculation.

The projected podiums cover the two premier-class races. They are editorial forecasts, not published results.

MotoGP | Portugal event page MotoGP | Ducati update on Bagnaia

REFERENCES

SOURCES & DISCLAIMER

Research checked November 11, 2026 | Results through Qatar

MotoGP | Portugal event page
Official dates, venue, track and race distances.

Portugal | Published weekend timetable
Full session starts and race order.

ON TRACK | Session time cross-check
Independent check of all 20 listed starts.

FIM | 2026 Grand Prix regulations
Qualifying, championship points and GP countback.

MotoGP Stats | Riders' standings
Points and manufacturer after Qatar.

Flag & Clock | GP-win count
Sunday win totals used in the title scenarios.

MotoGP | Qatar Grand Prix report
Race results and title position after Round 20.

MotoGP | Qatar Sprint report
Sprint finish and Márquez's match point.

MotoGP | Portimão 2025 Grand Prix
Sunday podium and Bezzecchi's race.

MotoGP | Portimão 2025 Sprint
Saturday podium and close finish.

MotoGP Stats | Moto2 standings
González and Guevara after Qatar.

MotoGP Stats | Moto3 standings
Quiles and the battle for second.

MotoGP | Qatar Moto2 report
Holgado's win and the 13.5-point title gap.

MotoGP | Qatar Moto3 report
Almansa's win and the podium order.

METHOD

Schedule starts are shown in 24-hour ET, PT, GMT and CET. Portugal is on GMT for this weekend. The title table assumes full points and uses the FIM’s Grand Prix countback rule; Sprint results do not break a points tie.

Projected podiums combine Qatar results, 2025 Portimão form and the likely effect of the grid. They do not assume confirmed weather, tyre choices or a final entry list.

DISCLAIMER

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